STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of Kenneth THOMPSON

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter " over 21 ") Over 21

Occupation of Witness Detective Chief Inspector

Address C.1. Department, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at 1.05 p.m., in company with Detective Chief Superintendent BUTLER and other police officers, I saw a man I now know to be James Earl RAY, in an office at London Airport. Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "We are police officers. I understand you have in your possession two passports in the names Sneya and Sneyd. What is your name?" He replied, "I can't understand why I am here. My name is Sneyd". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Both passports show that you are a Canadian citizen born in Toronto on the 8th October, 1932. Are those details correct?" He replied, "Yes, of course they are".

Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "This .38 revolver with five rounds of .38 ammunition was found in your hip pocket when you were first seen. Is it your gun?" He replied, "Yes, it is mine". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Would you like to tell us why you are carrying a gun at all?" He replied, "I am going to Brussels". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Why should you want to take a gun to Brussels?" He replied, "Well, really, I am thinking of going on to Rhodesia and things are not too good there just now". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "You have to

Signed ..... Signature witnessed by .....

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of Kenneth THOMPSON

have a firearms certificate to possess a gun, and even ammunition, in this country. Have you a firearms certificate issued by the competent authority?" He replied, "No, I havn't any certificate for it".

He was then cautioned and told he would be taken to Cannon Row Police Station.

At 4.45 p.m. the same day, together with Detective Chief Superintendent Butler, I saw the accused in a cell. Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "As a result of enquiries made since you were detained we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen but an American". He replied, "Oh, well, yes, I am" and nodded his agreement.

Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to the prisoner, "I now believe that your name is not Sneyd but James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt and other names, and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offences, including murder in which a firearm was used". The prisoner had been standing up at this stage but suddenly he slumped down on a seat and said, "Oh, God". After a few minutes he added, "I feel so trapped". He was again cautioned and said, "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right".

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of.....Kenneth THOMPSON.....

At 5.20 p.m. he was formally charged and cautioned but made no reply.

This statement, consisting of 3 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of June, 1968

(*Signed*).....

Signature witnessed by.....

*(being unable to read the above statement I, of read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19 .

(*Signed*).....

M.P.-67-80733

* *Delete if inapplicable.*